

The regular meeting of the Town Assembly of the Village of Arden was held on September 25, 1972 with Chairman, William Press presiding.

After a quorum was declared present, the minutes of the June meeting were circulated and on motion accepted.

Mr. Cy Liberman presented the financial report of the Trustees. A copy is on file.

Mr. Liberman reported that one lot that touches commons was recently transferred and surveyed and it was found that the leaseholder had in use close to three times the amount of his lease. The new lease has been issued at the proper amount of 15,000 sq. feet.

At the June Town Assembly, Mr. Cohen suggested that Arden could levy a transfer tax on real estate to be added to the asking price. Mr. Cohen has further researched this question and it can be done under the Deed of Trust and under the charter of the Village of Arden.

Arden should be eligible for a share of the Revenue Sharing Act being prepared by the Department of the Treasury.

During the discussion of the Trustees report it was pointed out that there will be a new reassessment of real estate in New Castle County. There is a possibility that we will be called upon to pay more taxes than we had budgeted for. The transfer tax is 2% that applies only to real estate. The Attorney General held that the entire sale price is taxable in Arden. The Charter does permit the Village to raise revenue in terms of transfer tax. The report of the Trustees was approved.

Assessors -no report

Auditing Committee: The professional audit of the General Funds and Municipal Aid Funds of the Village of Arden was done by Carl Von Dreele. The Auditing Committee report was circulated and after examination, the report was accepted and a copy is on file.

Budget Committee circulated its proposed Budget for 1973 to 1974. Total income is \$74,976.00 and taxes and administrative expenses are \$54,851. The amount available for budgeting was \$20,151. The proposed budget amounted to \$24,310 which represents a deficit of \$4,159 to be drawn from Reserve if necessary. The Budget as presented was approved to be sent to referendum for approval of majority of residents of the Village of Arden.

Civic Committee reported that the major contract totaling \$16,000 for road and drainage work was started in mid-September and should be completed by the end of October. The road work proposed for 1973-74 will average \$15,000. The Civic Committee is requesting \$1,300 for the purchase of a large riding mower. The committee is also asking for an increase for special clean-up from \$600 to \$750 which represents the actual cost of a single clean up.

Ordinance #6 "Excavations in Village Road" was approved the June Town Assembly. The committee is currently establishing road resurfacing details and these will be circulated to the residents by mail.

Rules for the control and use of the Frank Stephens Memorial Theatre are being studied and when completed will be submitted to the Town Assembly for approval.

Community Planning Committee reports:

1. County Council is now seeking alternate means of dealing with flood problem on Naaman's Creek. Channelization project might be held up.
 2. As of March 1972 the County has had a flood plain ordinance. As soon as the committee learned of this, they asked the Engineering Department to enforce it in Ardentown across from the old swimming pool. The Ardentown leaseholder received a letter forbidding the continuation of filling his land.
 3. The Community Planning Committee is responsible for maintaining and managing the Memorial Gardens. A letter requesting a contribution for maintenance is being sent to families of deceased persons. This request will be made only as need arises.
 4. The beautification project at the pump house on Meadow Lane is going forward with the cooperation of the Civic Committee and the Merry-go Rounders.
 5. Suggest composting of leaves.
 6. We have not heard about our request for being named as an historical site as yet.
- The committee report on motion was accepted.

The Town Assembly publically recognized the work that Frank Akutowicz has done in trying to fight the destruction of Naaman's Creek by flood control plans and thanked him for his efforts in our behalf.

Registration Committee reported there were 404 registered voters. The committee will conduct the referendum in October. Voting for members of standing committees must be done on voting machines in March according to state law.

Safety Committee:

1. Installed about 60 traffic signs around the Village. These included speed limits, one-way signs, top signs, do-not enter signs, no outlet, no parking and watch children signs.
 2. Safety Action Memorandum was mailed to all residents in early August. New residents will receive these signs also. Memorandum summarized relevant portions of Arden Safety Code and ordinance on use of commons and noise deterrent. When a violation is observed, call the State police.
 3. Operation Identification is a scheme to reduce the incidents of burglary within the Village. Concept is to mark articles of value with an identifying number and place stickers on outside doors or windows stating this has been done. Experience has indicated that burglars will avoid these articles. Another distribution of the information will be made again.
 4. Under new business a motion will be offered to request the State Highway Department to prohibit heavy trucks from traveling Harvey Road. It has been learned that installation of traffic lights can be made through an act of the Legislature. The Safety Committee will work with our State Representative and Senator to obtain installation of a light at Harvey and Orleans roads.
- A patrol will be organized to discourage acts of vandalism on Mischief night.
- Action on the greens will be discussed under new business.

Shaul Gladstone, member of the Safety Committee presented special State Police patrol statistics from mid-August to present:

8 arrests, 10 reprimands, 30 official contacts. There were 7 VASCAR speeding arrests in Arden in one day. Recent burglaries, including heavy vandalism were solved by State Police detectives with arrest of three suspects.

Safety Committee report on Speed Deterrents in Arden:
Methods of reducing speeding on Arden roads has been of interest to the Town for many years. Recently installation of bumps and/or dips were suggested. The committee contacted the State Highway Department who have studied the matter several times. The consensus of the report was that these means created traffic hazards and were particularly dangerous for emergency vehicles. The cost of installation was obtained from a paving contractor and the total expenditure would be around \$5000.

The study made by the State Highway Department indicated that stop signs do not offer a much better solution, but the Safety Committee will proceed with the installation unless the Town Assembly directs otherwise.

The best method of control of speeding is the strict enforcement of the speed limit and the Committee has requested that the State Police do this. The report of the Safety Committee on motion was received.

Arden Resources Committee no report

Advisory Committee no report

Committee on Assistant Programs for Arden will look into Revenue Sharing Act and new interpretation of the Municipal Street Aid Act.

A motion was made and passed by vote of 51 to 31 to suspend the rules of order and nominate the assessors and discuss the problem of the greens and commons and then revert to Old Business.

The following were nominated to serve on the Board of Assessors:

Harold Monfort
Joan(Penny) Colgan
Michael Curtis
Frank Starr
Alton Dahl
Frank Herzog

Morris Rosin
Shaul Gladstone
Jal Kerawalla
Carl Von Dreele
Aaron Hamburger
Frank Gavas

Eugene Shaw
Bernard Brachman
Carolyn Liberman
June Kleban
Katherine Ringer

The Safety Committee reported on the Arden Green:

Problems associated with the Arden Green have been discussed at great length in the Town Assembly and at special meetings over the past several years. The situation during the latter part of the summer and continuing to the present has reached such a level that something must be done.

There is a large amount of drinking, apparent use of drugs, littering, and a large amount of noise. This continues during night and day and is annoying the residents around the commons and those that pass the area.

The Safety Committee working with the police has attempted to control the situation, but nothing has influenced the young people to moderate their behavior. The Cosmos Gild presented a plan at the June Town Assembly to attempt to talk with the offenders, but their efforts have been unsuccessful. There is rampant littering, disregard of all requests for abatement of noise and misuse of the area.

In summary the Safety Committee feels that under the present ground rules we cannot expect further control and the presence of large groups on the Green outweigh any possible benefits to residents or

non-residents that free and unrestricted use of the Greens implies.

The Safety Committee offered a motion to eliminate the gathering of these groups. Resolved that the Town Assembly request the Safety Committee and the State Police to enforce existing town ordinances and State laws to the end that no groups will be allowed to congregate on the greens and commons creating any type of disturbance at any hour."

It is the intention of the Safety Committee to have the State Police implement this by a task force approach until word gets around that the Arden areas are no longer available for this type of activity. These task force activities would not be continued beyond the June, 1973 Town Assembly unless authorized by the Town Assembly.

Recently a significant number of residents have worked to improve the situation by staying on the Green each evening. The committee commends this action, but feel the Town Assembly should authorize stronger action. There are two reasons for this suggestion. First, gathering and noise have still taken place on the periphery of the Green and second, coverage of the Green at hours when problems are likely to occur will be difficult to maintain for an extended period.

In the discussion following this report many people cited the serious of the situation. There is a group of 42 people who are taking turns going to the greens every evening and talking with the young people or just by their presence trying to control the situation. This group requests that this approach be given a chance and if the situation gets nasty, then they will call in the police.

A petition signed by 61 people asked that the Town Assembly take whatever immediate action is necessary to control the situation on the Greens.

Some felt that the moderate way of attempting to control the situation is misguided and that Arden does not have to put up with misuse of our greens and forests. Although the proposal is a nice Arden way to handle the situation, it was felt that the cycle of misuse must be broken first.

Motion was placed on the floor and seconded, "Resolve that the Town Assembly request the Safety Committee and the State Police to enforce existing Town Ordinances and State Laws to the end that no groups be allowed to congregate on the Greens or Commons creating any type of disturbance at any hour."

It was suggested that the motion be amended and the enforcement of laws be used only for emergency measures. Request that the Safety Committee formalize a method of arranging groups to sit on the greens.

Suggestion was made that the Trustees implement a No Trespassing ordinance on Arden property.

An amendment to have the Chairman of the Town Assembly appoint a Special Green Committee to oversee the regular and frequent use of the green by members of the community. Resolve that the Town Assembly request that Safety Committee be part of this. The amendment was defeated by a vote of 43 nays and 30 nays.

The motion proposed by the Safety Committee was accepted.

A motion was made and passed that the Town Assembly encourage Mr. William

Bindloss and the large group of concerned citizens to continue that action aimed at improving the quality of life on the green and to discourage by their presence its misuse.

Motion that the Harvey Road Study be tabled again.

Motion was made that the Town Assembly provide a facility so that a discussion course using Henry George's PROGRESS AND POVERTY be provided and that we encourage all residents to participate. Carried with 27 ayes and 24 nays.

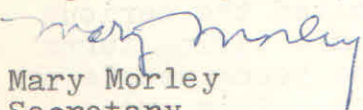
The following motion was made and carried:

"Resolved that the State Highway Department be requested to bar heavy trucks from Harvey Road within the Village limits."

Under Good and Welfare, it was suggested that fund be collected to have a potrait of Hamilton D. Ware painted to be hung in the Gild Hall.

The meeting on motion adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


Mary Morley
Secretary